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Grants Pass Department Of Public Safety

Contact Information:

Non-Emergency

541-450-6260

Fire

541-450-6200

City Hall

541-450-6000



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter March-April 2014

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety has received numerous calls regarding vehicles being stolen while they are left running in front of residences and business. On average a vehicle is stolen in the United States every 21 minutes. Vehicle thefts cost the victim time and money, and often the vehicles are used in the commission of other crimes. Vehicles are stolen during the day and at night.

In order to decrease the likelihood of becoming a victim of a vehicle theft:

- If you need to warm up your vehicle, don't leave the vehicle unattended. If you are waiting in the vehicle, lock the doors. If someone approaches your vehicle, don't unlock the door or roll the window down all the way. This will decrease your likelihood of being kidnapped.
- Always lock your vehicle and keep your windows rolled up. An unlocked vehicle is an easy target for thieves, even when it is parked in your driveway.
- Park in high traffic, well lit areas.
- If you have a trailer or another vehicle with a VIN (ex: quad, dirt bike), secure it to your primary vehicle with a lock to prevent easy thefts.
- Never leave your running car unattended, even to run into a business or store. Even if you lock your door, criminals will break the window and take the car.
- Never leave any keys in the car or ignition, inside a garage or in a hide a key box.
- Look into purchasing a vehicle theft tracking/security system, especially if you own a frequently stolen model vehicle.
- Copy your license plate and vehicle identification number (VIN) onto a card and keep them with you. The police department will need this information to take a report.
- Report any suspicious activity that you see in parking lots or in your neighborhood.
- If your vehicle is stolen, report it to the police department immediately.

If you have questions, please contact Officer Lesley Donaghy Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Crime Prevention Bureau at 541-450-6245.



EVENTS CALENDAR

April 14th—May 2nd : Spring Leaf Collection

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day : May 3rd

Earthquake Preparedness Seminar : April 18th at the Josephine County Fairgrounds

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP OFF

Prevent the misuse and accidental ingestion of prescription medications by locking them up and disposing of them properly. Prescription drugs, along with cleaning products, pose a risk to children and should be kept in a locked area where they cannot access.

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety has a prescription drug drop box located in their police station lobby to assist you in disposing of your unused medications. The drop box is located in the police station lobby at:

101 NW A Street

It is available 24 hours a day. You can dispose of all prescription medications anonymously. You cannot dispose of illegal drugs or hypodermic needles in this drop box.

If you have any questions, please contact the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety at

Thank you to our Auxiliary and our Chaplains! They provide a valuable service to the department and community.

If you have an interest in being a volunteer for the Auxiliary or Chaplain unit of the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, contact Officer Lesley Donaghy at 541-450-6245.

OUTDOOR BURNING

Residents are reminded that outdoor burning of debris is prohibited at all times within the city of Grants Pass. An exception to this rule are the spring and fall burn windows, generally scheduled for May and October. During these two periods the burning of residential yard waste and debris is allowed by permit. Check the website for details.



SMOKE ALARMS

Protect Yourself and Your Family

In the event of a fire, properly installed and maintained smoke alarms will provide an early warning alarm to your household. The alarm could save your own life and those of your loved ones by providing early detection and the chance to escape.

A working smoke alarm should be placed outside every bedroom and on every level of the home. Residents that are hearing impaired should install additional alarms inside the bedroom. There are alarms that use strobe lights that flash or vibrate to assist in alerting those who are hearing or visually impaired.

Remember having smoke alarms with dead batteries is the same as having no alarm at all. Test your alarms once per month. Some newer smoke alarms have batteries with a 10 year life. Alarms with standard batteries should have the batteries replaced at least every year. While you are checking the battery, be sure to remove any dust accumulation, as dust can reduce your smoke alarm's sensitivity.

BE FIREWISE!

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety has a program called Firewise Communities. The program, developed by the National Fire Protection Association, is currently in use in over 700 Firewise communities in 40 states. A Federal grant provides funding for this project.

The goal of the program is to inform residents residing in areas that are potentially susceptible to wildfire what they can do now to help protect themselves, their home and their neighborhoods from burning in the event of a wildfire. There have been several areas in and around the City of Grants Pass identified to be at a higher risk of wildfire. A map of these areas is located at www.GrantsPassFirewise.org.

Our Firewise Coordinator, Bob Schumacher is available to provide a free assessment of your yard and surrounding

WOOD HEAT SAFETY

Maintain Your Chimney

Most fires involving either masonry or prefabricated metal chimneys occur because of improper installation, use or maintenance. The main problem is creosote buildup. Creosote occurs naturally as a byproduct of burning wood. If it gets to be a quarter inch thick or thicker inside the chimney or stove, it's a fire hazard, as it can ignite. Your best friend in the fight against wood stove and chimney fires is the legendary chimney sweep. You should have a chimney sweep clean your stove or fireplace at least once a year, and possibly more often if they get a lot of use. It's also a good idea to make sure the chimney has been inspected when you buy a house. The following are common causes of fires:

- Improper chimney installation too close to wood framing.
- Installation of thermal insulation too close to the chimney.
- Improperly passing the stovepipe or chimney through a ceiling or wall, causing ignition of wood framing.
- Structural damage to the chimney caused by the ignition of creosote (a black tar-like substance that builds up inside the chimney in normal use).

Structural damage to metal prefabricated chimneys that results in wood framing being exposed to excessive temperatures or leakage of potentially toxic gases to the interior of the home can take the following forms:

- Corrosion or rusting of the inner liners of metal chimneys.
- Buckling, separation of the seam, or collapsing of the inner liner of metal chimneys. (This can result from too hot a fire, especially in high-efficiency stoves and in fireplace inserts, or from a creosote fire.)

Dispose of Ashes Safely

Remove ash from the firebox and place in a noncombustible container, away from your house. When cool, dispose of properly – wood ash can make a good fertilizer in the garden.

Wood Piles

Keep large wood piles away from structures and keep grass from growing adjacent to the pile.

*For more information contact your wood stove dealer or chimney sweep. Use only licensed and bonded providers.

For further information please call the Fire Prevention Bureau at 541-450-6200